

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



May 2013



Our hard-earned club dues
begin the journey to support
future DXpeditions

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

PROGRAM:

RON N6XT WILL TELL US ABOUT HIS DXPEDITION TO SAMOA, ETC.

MEETING NOTICE:

**JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER , NO CHANGE THIS MONTH
AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

A Word from the Prez

2

Secretary's Report

3

Editor's Ramblings

3

DX Standings

4

How's DX

5

An Unusual Story

6

Useful Operating Aid

7



President:

John Barcroft, K6AM
(858) 587-8061
k6am@arrl.net

Vice President:

Dan Severance
(858) 449-8526
daniel_severance@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ellen Utschig, N6UWW
(760) 721-2927
elenalaloca@cox.net

Past President:

Gayle Olson, K6GO
(858) 673-9201
k6go@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

Harry Hodges, W6YOO
(760) 743-4212
w6yoo@cox.net

Bob Grimmick, N6OX
(949) 573-1070
n6ox@yahoo.com

Les Nuhn, NN6K
(619) 467-4510
rttyman@aol.com

Ladder:

John Barcroft, K6AM
k6am@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Arnie Lewin, W7BIA

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA
(760) 749-3936
k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Ron Stockton, N0RR
(760) 224-7139
rjstockton@cox.net

A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



Looks like everyone had a good time at Visalia. Acceptance of the new venue at the downtown Convention Center was almost unanimous. I conveyed the results of the survey we took at the April meeting to the SCDXC committee chairmen and they managed to finalize the deal to return to the Convention Center in 2014. Most hotels are accepting reservations now, with the Marriot opening on May 27.

While there, I stopped by and met with the team from the NCDXF and personally handed them our check for \$1000, double last year's donation. They are funding several very expensive expeditions in the next year and have been reaching out for more help.

One of those expeditions is to Amsterdam Island in early 2014. Team leader Bob Alphin, K4UEE asked me to remind our members that the cost for this expedition will be \$407,000, and even with the generous help of the NCDXF, they still need your individual support.

Congrats to John, NA6L, the SDDXC DX'er of the year. John's astounding total of 254 new entities in his first full year of DX'ing transcends his winning of the Rookie of the Year award earlier in the year to make him the top choice for the honor for the calendar year 2012. After making the announcement in his absence in Visalia, we surprised him with his plaque at our April meeting.

The WPX CW contest happens this week. For all you youngsters out there who are disappointed because all you could get was a weird 2 x 1 call, this contest is for YOU! As far as you know, WPX stands for "Weird Prefix." Your one-of-a-kind prefix becomes a rare MULTIPLIER! So please get on and work us as NY6N from W6YI as well as the other members who will be active.

Elections are coming up in June. We will accept nominations from the floor at this month's meeting. In addition, your nominating committee will offer a slate of nominees.

Finally, contrary to assurances from the Sizzler management, the remodel job has been delayed yet again! So pay attention.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE AT THE SIZZLER.

CU There.

73, John, K6AM

Treasurers

Report

Ellen, N6UWW



President John Barcroft, K6AM, opened the meeting at Sizzler & welcomed another packed house (41). John announced that services were held for Rick Craig, N6ND, who succumbed to cancer recently. Thanks to all club members who attended the services. Please keep Rick & his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The 2012 SDDX Club DXer of the year award was presented to John Vissat, NA6L, who was also our Rookie of the Year last year. Congratulations, John!

Sizzler will be undergoing construction (soon...or so they say...REALLY!) and when construction begins, we will move our meeting location to Amy's (sp?) in Mira Mesa. Stay tuned to the SDDX Club Yahoo group reflector for details. A discussion ensued about the Visalia DX Convention and much speculation was made over where it might be held next year. It has since been announced on dxconvention.org that the 2014 Convention will be held at the Visalia Convention Center again. Mark your calendars NOW for 2014 DX Convention in Visalia - Thursday April 3 thru Sunday April 6, 2014.

Top Ten 17m & 12m were announced. A motion was made to donate \$250 to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. The motion passed unanimously. The slate of nominations for next year's board will be announced at the May meeting.

Visitors were introduced: Bruce N6EBL. A roundtable discussion was followed by a presentation by Ben N6MUF on his Spratly Island DXpedition.

Treasurer's Report

83 members

Statement Balance 4/30/2013 \$7292.14

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Ron, N0RR

Thanks to everyone who provided input this month; Dennis N6KI, Jim W6YA, Jim W6YI and Wild Bill WB6BFG. Other than the promised tribute to Rick N6ND and a few related memories, I have a no material for the June issue, or beyond, so please continue to submit content, particularly those personal stories, articles and photos.

If you were active during the first 11 days of this month, you know that propagation on the high bands was excellent due to high sunspot numbers and low K-indices. As always, perseverance paid off on 10m. Shortly after sunrise on Saturday, May 11, eastern EU came through in the CQ-M contest, which was quite surprising to me this close to summer doldrums on 10m. At 2000Z Z81X started calling CQ on 10m CW with an S9 signal. (FYI—The propagation program ICEPAC predicted an opening at this time with a 36 dB signal-to-noise ratio.) According to their ClubLog statistics, they only worked 397 NA stations on 10m during the entire operation and I know that at least 3 of those QSOs were with SDDXC members.

For those of you who follow DX operations, you know that FO/KH0PR, Yoshi JJ8DEN, was on the not-so-active Austral Islands while operating from OC-114 last week. For those of you who don't read the DX bulletins, you missed an easy one because it is a north-south path with close to gray line condx this time of year.

The bad news is that shortly after May 11th, the sun fired four flares at us and as of this writing, the high bands have not fully recovered. Changing the subject to a more positive note, Roger 5Z4/LA4GHA, told me that he is going to Somalia in May (possibly June now), so do not be surprised if you hear 6O0LA on the bands in the coming weeks.

Enough of my ramblings. Read on and enjoy the stories and pictures from and about our members. The last page contains a convenient tool for tracking DXCC entities or DXpedition stations by band slots, courtesy of W6YA.

Ron, N0RR

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 17 METERS TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 METERS

5/13	5/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG	5/13	5/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	338	+2	1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	323	+2
2.	2.	K6AM	40	325	331	331	-	2.	2.	K6AM	40	307	314	317	+3
3.	4.	N7CW	40	299	299	323	-	3.	4.	N7CW	40	222	222	277	-
4.	5.	K0XB	40	297	300	306	+13	4.	5.	N6CW	39	?	192	265	-
5.	8.	W6YI	38	210	212	296	+25	5.	6.	K0XB	39	247	249	260	+25
6.	6	N6CW	25	?	231	292	-	6.	7.	W6YI	37	168	170	253	+27
7.	7.	W6YOO	37	275	280	280	+3	7.	8.	W6YOO	36	224	227	227	+2
8.	9.	K6XT	40	251	251	269	-	9.	9.	K6XT	38	200	201	219	-
9.	-.	WB6BFG	38	224	226	251	NEW	8.	-.	WN6K	37	158	159	206	NEW
10.	-.	WN6K	40	187	189	246	NEW	10.	-.	WB6BFG	39	171	173	200	NEW

On 17 and 12 both, we had several nice moves. In a repeat of last year, Rick, K0XB heads back to Minn. with 38 new ones strapped to his luggage rack, while Jim, W6YI checks in with 52 new ones. Nice work gents. We also welcome WN6K and WB6BFG to both lists. You're not a rookie anymore, Wild Bill. As the cycle peaks, these bands continue to show some life. There were a few EU openings on 12 in the past few months while 17 remains a very viable band.

Both of these lists are much easier to break into than the other bands. If you're not playing the WARC bands, you're missing a chance to experience the thrill of working a new one several times every month. The little Cushcraft WARC dipole is all you need to get started. The newer Force 12 Antennas work on 12 and 17 with a couple dB of gain as well.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 160 meters, RTTY and band-countries. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

2012 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES PHONE CONTEST SDDXC RESULTS

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
MS - HP	W6YI (+N6KI, N6WIN, N6MJ, K6AM)	371,342	2,237	83	#1 US/VE ALL CATEGORIES #1 US/VE MULTI OP (SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR)
MS - LP	NX6T (ops N6KI, AF6WF, K6KAL, K6GO, NA6MB, N6ERD, N6CY, W2PWS, WB6NBU)	134,792	812	82	#1 SW DIV ALL TIME DIVISION RECORD ALL TIME SECTION RECORD #3 US/VE
SO - HP	K6NA (N6ED, op)	280,208	1,688	83	#1 SW DIV
SO - HP	N5ZO	5,032	68	46	#19 SW DIV
SO - LP	WN6K	119,290	755	79	#3 SW DIV
SO - U	N6NC	50	5	5	



How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
5B75FOC	10 CW	11-May	1538	N0RR	UN7JZ	15 RTTY	9-May	1657	WB6BFG
5W1SA	10 CW	5-May	0327	N0RR	UW5M	15 RTTY	4-May	1733	WB6BFG
8Q7EJ	20 CW	13-May	1322	W6YA	VK9NT	10 CW	5-May	0041	N0RR
8Q7KP	15 SSB	4-Apr	1906	W6YI	VK9NT	30 RTTY	5-May	1353	WB6BFG
9N1SZ	15 CW	4-May	0044	W6YA	VK9NT	15 RTTY	6-May	0424	WB6BFG
9V1YC	30 CW	7-May	1343	WB6BFG	VK9NT	40 CW	6-May	1303	WB6BFG
A35UD	10 CW	4-May	2325	N0RR	VK9NT	12 SSB	7-May	0321	WB6BFG
A52SV	20 CW	29-Apr	1442	W6YA	VK9NT	17 RTTY	7-May	0547	WB6BFG
EU7A	17 CW	7-May	1656	WB6BFG	VK9NT	several	several	several	W6YA
FO/KH0PR	10 CW	11-May	0028	N0RR	VP2EAQ	12 CW	9-May	2119	WB6BFG
FO/KH0PR	10 RTTY	11-May	0154	WB6BFG	VU7KV	20 SSB	5-May	1328	W6YA
H70ORO	17 SSB	5-May	1415	WB6BFG	YB0NFL	20 SSB	6-May	1359	WB6BFG
HD8A	15 CW	17-May	1746	WB6BFG	YE30P	17 RTTY	17-May	1417	WB6BFG
HR5/F2JD	12 CW	10-May	1741	WB6BFG	YI1RZ	20 RTTY	9-May	0427	WB6BFG
HZ1PS	15 RTTY	4-May	1720	WB6BFG	Z30U	17 CW	6-May	1721	WB6BFG
JD1BHM	12 CW	29-Apr	2315	W6YI	Z81X	20 SSB	4-May	0134	WB6BFG
JD1BHM	15 RTTY	1-May	0107	WB6BFG	Z81X	20 CW	7-May	0335	WB6BFG
JY4CI	20 SSB	9-May	0320	WB6BFG	Z81X	15 CW	9-May	0142	WB6BFG
OH1TN	15 RTTY	4-May	1737	WB6BFG	Z81X	17 CW	10-May	0313	WB6BFG
OX/K1LRZ	20 SSB	8-May	2303	WB6BFG	Z81X	10 CW	11-May	2003	N0RR
P29CS	10 SSB	4-May	0410	WB6BFG	Z81X	10 CW	11-May	2023	WN6K
RP68KR	17 RTTY	9-May	1325	WB6BFG	Z81X	10 CW	11-May	2044	W6YI
TF3ARI	17 SSb	9-May	1412	WB6BFG	Z81X	several	several	several	W6YA
TZ6BB	15 CW	9-May	2029	WB6BFG	ZS8Z	20 SSB	15-May	1401	W6YA

QSLs Received Recently—

Station	Via
5B75FOC	LoTW
CX2DK	EA5GL
HZ1PS	LoTW
OT4A	LoTW
TZ6BB	LoTW
V5/DJ2HD	Direct
VK9NT	LoTW
VQ9JC	Direct
XR0YG	M0URX
XT2TT	OQRS
YB0NFL	LoTW
YI1RZ	LoTW
Z81X	LoTW
ZA/LZ1UQ	Direct



How many IOTA candidates do you see?

An Unusual Story

BY DR. J. MICHAEL BLASI,* W4NXXD

Most of us like to hear a good yarn about ham radio and the one that I'm going to tell you is probably the most unusual I've ever heard.

Well, last summer I was cleaning out some of the junk in my shack when W4--- calls on the land line and invites me over to see his new receiver. I've never been too close with Bob, but he's a decent sort of a chap. He works 20 meters mostly and since the noise level had been S9 the past few days, I guess he wanted somebody to shoot the breeze with.

About twenty minutes later I'm sitting in his shack looking over some of his QSL cards and wishing my DXCC total was up around 300 countries where Bob's is. He had just set up two cool ones with plenty of ice and passed me his tobacco pouch when he got a real funny look in his eye.

"You know, Doc, I've gotten a real thrill out of ham radio this week. I'm going to tell you an incident that started almost twenty-five years ago. I've never told this to a living soul, but since it was so long ago, nobody would raise any smoke about it today.

"A young fellow like you wouldn't remember this, but DX was a bit different before WW II. The big thing in those days was trying to get a Worked All Zones certificate. Not very many fellows had the award and there was real competition for some of the Asian zones. Why I even put up a rhombic pointed at Tibet just so I could try to work AC4YN. I never worked him, but I sure had a ball trying to chase him down. The closest I ever got was to work a whole mess of Js in Japan. They're signing JA nowadays.

"All of this came to an end when the war broke out and I signed up, like a lot of other hams I knew. They shipped me out to the South Pacific before I could count to ten.

"Well, it was in '42, or maybe it was the beginning of '43, that I got a taste of the enemy. It seems there was a small island about five miles from us that the Japs were using to report all ship movements in the area. We figured they had a radio station and a few men, since the island was only about a mile square.

"To make a long story short, two other fellows and I volunteered to go ashore and look around and try to close shop for our friends from Tokyo. Well, when we were trying to beach our rubber boat, the other two fellows get cut up real bad on some coral and were just about useless 'til they could be moved back to the ship.

"I was much younger then and much more foolish or brave, I guess, so I said I'd have a look around and be back in a couple of hours. Well, I must have hacked my way through about



half a mile of jungle when I noticed some wire that had been strung through the palms. It was fed with open line, so I just followed the spreaders until I hit pay dirt. There was a small bamboo hut with a table and a chair and some radio gear that seemed to be in operation. I moved to a small hill and looked the situation over. There was only one fellow inside and he didn't seem to be more than five feet tall, so maybe I could handle the problem alone. Where I was lying offered a good position for me to jump this fellow if he came out of the hut.

"It seemed like five hours, but it must have been less when he decided to come strolling out next to that little hill I was on. I got my jungle knife ready and landed right on top of him. I'm all set to give some cold steel in the stomach when I get the surprise of my life. He's got a magazine in his hand and it was *QST*. Well, I was so stunned when I saw it I dropped my knife and just looked at him. We must have stared at each other for a full two minutes like mad men. Then, do you know what I said to him?"

"What's your call?"

Well, he grins and says, "'Jay Too —."

"I had worked him about half a dozen times on 20 c.w. His handle was Iko. His English wasn't too bad so we just shot the bull for a while. I know this sounds crazy, but how could you take the life of a fellow ham whose QSL card is hanging on your wall back home. Some things are just bigger than war.

"Before long we're having a gay old time as he's broken out a special bottle of rice wine and started gabbing about old DX on 20 c.w. I finally explain that, ham buddy or not, there's going to be hot times for him real soon.

Continuation — "Well, Iko tells me that this is his last day on the island and that he is going to be taken off by a sub in a few hours. They are closing down the radio station on that island. He even asks me to help him get his radio gear into his rubber raft. At the time it seemed like a pretty good idea so I asked him if he'd let me dynamite the hut after he left, just to make things look all right. We shook hands, exchanged 73s, and I watched him paddle off to the sub. The rest of the story is uneventful except that I got a medal for my bravery on the island.

Then Bob got up from his chair to get some more ice for the drinks as I sat there and relighted my pipe. "Well, Doc, the cap to this story is that I worked a JA1 on 20 SSB last week and it was Iko. It makes me feel good that things worked out OK after all." We both raised our glasses and drank to JA1—.

[illegible]